

June 24, 1957

Prof. J. A. Jenkins
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Berkeley 4, California

Dear Jim:

Thanks for your note. A sample did just arrive from Mexico, unlabelled, but unmistakably indigo. Thank you very much for your good offices.

Unfortunately, the material seems to be the refined dye, indigo, and not its immediate precursor, indican (indoxyl-beta-glucoside). I looked to see whether the indigo was appreciably contaminated with indican; unfortunately it is not. Having gone so far, would it occasion great trouble for you to find out how the dye is prepared, and if so whether it would be possible to obtain a sample of the plant extract before it is hydrolysed and oxidised? If not that, then even the dry leaves would be useful! But don't trouble yourself if it means a great bother, embarrassment, or socio-psychological revolution. It would be a shame to let this beautiful stuff go to waste. Would Kay have some use for it? (There is an ounce or two).

I hope my occasional impatience doesn't show through too strongly in these letters. It has been something of a burden to be thinking of two places at once—indeed there is plenty of distraction here what with the organizational work in Medical Genetics, and our forthcoming travel, beyond the usual routine of lab., courses and writing papers. We will both be relieved when this phase is over. However, I haven't been able to think of a better plan or schedule than the one now under discussion, so we will just have to wait it out and hope it comes through. I'm sure we would all be unhappy if the timing were stretched out any further, and against that contingency, we ought to keep in mind just how far we could go in Giannini before it is fully vacated. I suppose we have to wait for the allocation of funds in any case.

It is hard to imagine that these details are wholly unrelated to the organizational problem of Agriculture at Berkeley. The scene is too far away for me to sense the prestige-values [at Wisconsin, Agriculture rates very high indeed, being the center of our scientific reputation, so what you say about the source of these values is certainly true—this depends in large measure, however, on the interdependence of the colleges, viz. whether Genetics is a department in a college or in the University, presumably the latter]. If there is a major reshuffling going on, I know you will be very much alive to any developments that would give Genetics a voice, perhaps even a formal place, in any growth of medical activities at Berkeley. From all you've said, I've gathered that in the long run, medicine is likely to wax as Agriculture wanes—and this is perhaps symbolic of what (I feel anyhow) is happening to Genetics as a science. Berkeley has a tremendous potential for medical genetics—as among its faculty in Genetics, Zoology, Cancer Research, Virus Lab. and Bacteriology, and if medical research is going to be emphasized over the years, I hope the Genetics Department can furnish the leadership to ensure that genetics

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is aptly represented both as a science and as a department. This may or may not be quite ethereal just now & I have not forgotten your admonition not to press too many ideas at once. The administrative forms would vary depending on local circumstances: we have worked out what should be quite a happy one here, but which might be quite malapropos elsewhere.

and this one

m This last paragraph/covers matters we can as well discuss in August; however, I am quite anxious to hear of the progression of policy regarding Agriculture at California, as well as the teaching problem. What are the basic science departments that would be left? Will the VP/Agr. remain at Berkeley, or move to Davis, and would this complicate our administration?

Enclosed is an itinerary. It will be most kind of you to meet us at the airport: would you check that again with Seymour?

Please let me know in good time if I should be thinking in advance of plans. I don't want to bring along any unnecessary baggage, even papers, & I might well mail sketches in advance if there is some likelihood of discussing them in August.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg



P.S. On checking the enclosed itinerary, I note that we will be arriving at 0530, that is A.M. and I would not think of getting you out at that unGodly hour. However, I imagine it is something of a chore to get to Berkeley from the airport. As most of our time will be on University business, do you think you could manage to get a state car, and have it left at the airport. If that doesn't work out, we might just rent our own. However, there is another flight (UA 515) that gets in at 0640 at Oakland airport: is this measurably more convenient to get to than the SF airport? If there is limousine or reasonable taxi service from Berkeley to Oakland airport, we might well arrange this. Can you advise?

P.P.S. On more than one occasion, Wendell Stanley has expressed his particular interest in my coming to Berkeley, and his wish to help the negotiations in any way he could. I leave to you the pros and cons of ~~xxxxxxxx~~ fostering that interest should the occasion arise.